

11 June 1958

*not
submitted*

REQUIREMENT: Date of Completion of the Volga-Baltic Water Route

I. Background

The Volga-Baltic Water Route, 361 km. long (Vytegra on Lake Onega to Cherepovets on the Rybinsk Reservoir) is currently being reconstructed to provide a deep-water system joining the Caspian, Azov, Black, Baltic, and White Seas. It will permit passage of ships up to 4,000 tons cargo deadweight. The old waterway system was able to handle ships of not more than 800 tons cargo deadweight and medium-sized submarines were able to use the system only with the aid of pontoons or transporter docks. Estimates for the completion of this vital water route for navigation range from as early as the end of 1959 to the 1962 navigation season with all construction work, including the operation of hydro-stations, completed by 1964.

II. Requirement

Specific information is requested that would indicate the date of completion of this strategic waterway.

III. Justification

Completion of the water route will permit the transfer of all types of submarines as well as small and medium destroyers between the maritime areas of the north and south, thus materially contributing to Soviet military as well as economic strengths.

~~SECRET~~